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Epistle of Farewell

To the People of God called



QUAKERS,

Where Ever Scattered or Gathered in *England, Ireland, Scotland, Holland, Germany,* or in any other Parts of *Europe.*

MY Dearly Beloved, and Highly Esteemed *in Christ*, our heavenly Head ; the Living and Good Shepherd of the Sheep, by whom we have been found out (one of a Family, and two of a Tribe) and made One holy Flock and Family unto Him, in this day of his Spiritual and Glorious Appearance : *Grace, Mercy and Peace*, yea, His Peace, *Which the World can neither give you, nor take from you*, be plentifully multiplied amongst you from day to day ; that a holy, harmless, and faithful People you may be, yielding to the Lord the Fruits of his

A Goodness,

Goodness, by a *Circumspect* and *Self-denying* Conversation to the End.

And now, my dear Friends, whom I Know and Love, and you also whom I truly love, tho' I do Not Know Personally, nor may be so known of some of you, since it has pleased the Good and All-wise God to order my Course from you, so that I cannot visit you ; as I have often desired, before I left you : This therefore is to be my Brotherly *Farewell* unto you. And surely my Soul is Bowed in Humble Petitions to Israel's God, The True, and Living, and Powerful God, that it may be *well with you* all, here and for ever. And, my Dear Brethren, this is certain, if you *Do well*, you shall certainly *Fare well*, and in the End of all your *Trials, Troubles, and Temptations*, it shall be said unto you, **well Done**, *Good and Faithful Servants, Enter ye into the Joy of the Lord.* O it is that which crowns the work. Not Saying but Doing, we must not only Begin, but End well ; and hold out to the End. *Not of those who are weary of Well-doing, but who follow the Lord fully, as Caleb and Joshua did in old time, and are Famed for it.* So that tho' God has Appeared to us, and Given us many and undeniable Testimonies that it was He, and not Another, who Reached our Hearts, and Touched our Consciences, and brought us to Confession, yea, and *Forfaking* too, of that which offend-
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ed Him, in great measure, Blessed be his Name, yet we are not to stop, or take up our *Rest* here : *We must Watch still, Pray still, Fight still, that good Fight of Faith, till we have overcome the Enemy of our Souls :* And even then must we *Watch* and *Pray*, and that to the End of our Days ; that we may not lose that *Crown of Glory, which God the Righteous Judge, shall give to all those that love his Appearance, overcome, and persevere to the End :* For be assured we shall reap if we faint not : But we shall faint if we wait not upon God, who alone is the Strength of his People.

This, My Dear Friends, is that which lies with greatest stress upon my Spirit ; *Watch to your Dayly Preservation,* and be not satisfied unless you feel it. *Sufficient is the Day for the Evil thereof,* said our Blessed Lord. God is not wanting : He that long stood at the Door of our Hearts, under our Impenitency in times past, *till his Locks were wet with the Dew, and his Hair with the Drops of the Night,* till we were wakened out of our Carnal Security, and came to Judgment in our selves, unto unfeigned Repentance, to be sure he is not weary of waiting to be *Gracious* now to his poor People ; Especially if they are *Poor in Spirit, and hungring and thirsting after Righteousness ;* and are not fill'd, overlaid, and choak'd with the Cares and Incumbrances of this World. No, *He was ever Good unto Israel, yea, unto*

all that are of an upright and clean Heart : Wherefore, Brethren, let your Eye be to the Lord, and wait often upon him ; Walk with him, and Dwell with him, and he will Walk and Dwell with you : And then no *Weapon form'd against you*, be it in Particular, or in General, *shall prosper* ; That is, not finally. It may perhaps Try you, and *bruise your Heel*, as it did your Lord and Master's, but it shall never finally *Prevail* against you, if you keep the Eye of your Minds to him, and have Faith in him, who saved *Daniel* in the Lyons Den, and *Shadrach, Meshach* and *Abednego* in the fiery Furnace, and has upheld us to this Day under various Afflictions. And tho' *Balaams* there are, that may be hired by the *Balaks* of our Age, to Curse our Israel-Family of God, of which some of us have been very sensible ; Yet this we know, *The Son of God is among us*, who commands the *Fire*, and the *Water*, and the *Winds*, as well now as then : And there is no *Inchantment* against *Jacob*, or *Divination* against *Israel*, that can prosper. And who knows but even some of these present *Balaams* may yet live to say, before they dye, as others of them have done since we were a People, *How goodly are thy Tents, O Jacob ! How pleasant is thy dwelling place, O Israel !* But then, Friends, we must keep our *Tents*, we must be a *Retired* and a *Peculiar* People, and dwell alone. We must keep *above* the World, and *clear* of the Spirit of it, and those

those many *Trifles*, *Cares* and *Troubles* that abound in it, with which but too many have visibly wounded and pierced their own Souls.

Beware of this in the Name of the Lord, and do not *Tempt God* ; it is in Christ ye have Peace, in the World is the Trouble : Keep therefore in him who has called himself (and we have found him so) the *Way*, *Truth* and *Life* ; And you shall live because he lives : He the *Root*, you the *Branches*, by whom you will be kept Green and Fruitful, bringing forth the Fruits and Graces of the Holy Spirit, in all your Converse, and Commerce, that it may be seen and said, God is with you, and amongst you. O ! Let *Humility*, *Charity*, *Meekness* and *Self-denial* shine amongst you ; so will you come to fit, as did the Primitive Christians, in *Heavenly Places* in Christ *Jesus*, and be preserved through the *Noise*, *Snares* and *Hurry* of this present Evil World.

Much I could say, for my Heart is open, and full too of Divine Love and Matter to you ; but time fails me ; therefore feel me, my Dear Friends, in that Love of God which is over Sea and Land ; where Distance cannot Separate, or Time Decay, nor many Waters quench. In which Love I *Embrace* and *Salute* you all, with the Kiss of our heavenly Fellowship, which the Lord hath given us in the Blessed Truth. And my strong Desires are to him, that we may maintain our blessed Relation by the same

same means, by which we came at first into it, viz. the true *Fear and Love of God*; which did not only make us careful, not to offend him, but also to be willing to *forlake all things* that came in Competition with him, or our Duty to him.

Oh let this *Chaste Fear and first Love* abound amongst you, my Beloved, in Christ, our Blessed Light and Life; or you will *Decay, Wither, and Dye* to God, and your Good Beginnings; which God Almighty forbid.

I know there is a *Serious and Diligent* People amongst you, who do not only know when *Good comes* from the hand of the Lord, but *wait* upon him for it, and that dayly: That their Souls may be strengthened in the way and work of the Lord: And these can no more live without his Presence, *his mystical and hidden Manna*, in their Spiritual Journey, to the *Eternal Canaan* of God, than outward Israel was able to live without *Manna* in the Wilderness in their Journey to their *temporal Canaan*. And I Beseech my God and my Father, and your God and your Father, my Dear Brethren, to attend all these holy Waiters upon him with the *good things of his House*, and Dayly make them Glad in his Holy House of *Prayer*.

But the Condition of some, who pretend to follow Christ, yet are afar off, affects my Spirit; for they know little of these Enjoyments, and hardly-

ly Eat so much as the *Crumbs* that fall from Christ's Table, and seem to satisfy themselves with a *meer Convincement* of the Truth, or at best with a *bare Confession* to it. Who taking up with a formal Going to Meetings, and Hearing what others have to say of the Work and Goodness of God in and to them, they *shun the Dayly Cross of Christ*. Whereby they should dye *dayly* to their earthly Wills and vain Affections, and *Overcome the World, the Flesh and the Devil*. Oh! these are still their own, and not the Lord's; and gird themselves, and go *Whither, and do What they list!* For which cause they are *Lean, Barren and Unfruitful* to God and to their own Souls; and Worship him in the *Form* only, and not the *Power of Godliness*; such must needs be *weak* in Faith, *ready to slip and start aside* at every windy Doctrine, or sensual Temptation.

Oh! My Dear Friends, let me prevail with you in this my *Farewell* to you, to turn your Minds *inward*, and wait to feel your Redeemer, and meet him in the way of his Righteous Judgments; for there is no Redemption but *through Judgment*, nor Conversion, but *through Righteousness*. Come and be baptized by Christ; He will Baptize you with his *Fire and Holy Gost*. He will Scowr and Rinse you; for, believe me, his *Fan is still in his Hand*, and he will, if you will let him, *thoroughly purge his Floor*, viz. your *Hearts*, and make all things *Clean and New there*, by his

his Spirit and Power. So will you Come to find your Interest in Christ, as you feel his *Workmanship and Interest in and over you*. And as you thus come to be related to Christ, the *Heavenly Head* (by knowing him to be *Head in you*) so will you come to be related to his Body, the *Church*, and see your *Proper Membership*, and *Service* therein ; which I pray God effect, to his Glory and your Comfort.

And now to the whole Family and Flock of God in this *European* part of the World, of the same Communion according to the Dispensation of God, be they *High* or *Low*, *Young* or *Old*, *Rich* or *Poor*, *Wise* or *Simple*, *Strong* or *Weak*, *Male* or *Female*, *Bond* or *Free*, I send this parting Salutation, of my most Dear Love in the Truth ; beseeching you all to have *Me* and *Mine* in your *Remembrance*, not only when upon the *mighty Waters* ; but when in the *Solitary Desarts* of America, if it please the Lord to bring us safe thither : For I am not above the Love and Prayers of my Dear Brethren, knowing I need them, and have often found, by Good Experience, *that they avail much with the Lord*.

I must leave you, but I can never forget you ; for my Love to you has been, even as *David's* and *Jonathan's*, above the Love of Women : And suffer me to say, That, to my Power, I have from the first endeavoured to serve you (and my poor Country too) and that at my own Charges, with an upright Mind, however mis-understood and treated by some, whom I heartily forgive. Accept you my Services, and ever Love and Remember, My Dear Friends and Brethren, your Old, True and Affectionate Friend, Brother and Servant, in Christ Jesus.

*Cows, Isle of White, weighing
Anchor the 3d of the 7th
Month, 1700.*

William Penn.

F I N I S.

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